

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. BA-2762

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

TOWSON 9000

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Fischer House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 8805 Harford Road

☐ not for publication

city, town Baltimore

☐ vicinity of

congressional district Ninth

state Maryland

county Baltimore County

## 3. Classification

### Category

☐ district

☒ building(s)

☐ structure

☐ site

☐ object

### Ownership

☐ public

☒ private

☐ both

### Public Acquisition

☐ in process

☐ being considered

☒ not applicable

### Status

☒ occupied

☐ unoccupied

☐ work in progress

### Accessible

☒ yes: restricted

☐ yes: unrestricted

☐ no

### Present Use

☐ agriculture

☐ commercial

☐ educational

☐ entertainment

☐ government

☐ industrial

☐ military

☐ museum

☐ park

☒ private residence

☐ religious

☐ scientific

☐ transportation

☐ other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Rudolph F. Fischer

street & number 8805 Harford Road

telephone no.: 410/665-1454

city, town Baltimore

state and zip code Maryland 21234

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Balto. Co. Courthouse

liber 6246

street & number Bosley & Chesapeake Streets

folio 717

city, town Towson

state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

NONE

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

## 7. Description

Survey No. BA-2762

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Please see attached.

Description

Fischer House

Baltimore County, Maryland

Continuation (1)

BA-2762

The Fischer house, at 8805 Harford Road in Baltimore County, Maryland, sits overlooking Harford Road facing the west in the Parkville neighborhood. It is a three story brick slate roof house with a central passage and two end chimneys and a side porch. This I style house was built and designed in 1932 by Rudolph F. Fischer, Sr.

The facade is one of balance and harmony. The front facade is made up of a central entrance, flanked by two windows. All windows are 6/6 with metal muttons unless otherwise noted. The lintels of the windows are flat gauged arches. The second floor continues the pattern, with a small window taking the place of the door. The third story is made up of two dormer windows. The dormers have pediments with shallow stepped moldings. The brickwork<sup>1</sup> is Flemish bond, with a modified grapevine joint. This brickwork enables the walls to be double bricked and to measure approximately 9" wide. The water course has two steps and extends into the side facades as well. The crown molding is a decorative key pattern just under the gutters is accented with widely spaced modillions. This decorative element extends to all facades, except where a gable interrupts.

The front entrance is set off by two semicircular bluestone steps and engaged pilasters, which have a molded cornice with a beaded garland. Above these pilasters, short caps support an interrupted pediment, which is accented by dentils on the interior edge. A wooden fan decoration reaches into the pediment space and rests on the lintel. A scroll decorates the top of the fan and also extends into the pediment. All is sheltered by a shingled overhang. The door itself is made up of six recessed panels, with the longest in the center. The soffits mirror the door with recessed paneling of their own.

The basement has a ground window with one long four over four window.

Circling to the North side facade, the most engaging element is the side porch. It is enclosed<sup>2</sup>, with a sloping roof covered in asphalt shingles<sup>3</sup>. It has engaged pillars<sup>4</sup> with dentils which echo the front facade. There are three large single lights, bracketed with four sidelights. The door is located in the middle, and blends into the facade by mirroring the other lights. The floor was originally brick, with a concrete foundation. Weatherboard extends roughly a third of the way up the porch. From this facade, one can see that the chimney is centered and the two windows on the second floor flank it. On the third floor, the windows are quarter circle, with four fan panes. The side of the porch which overlooks the backyard is a bay window with the same light styling as the other windows.

Continuing around to the East facade, the most noticeable aspect is the projecting two story portion of the house, at the site of the center passage. There is no water table in this facade. On the first floor, aside from the bay of the side porch, there are two windows, then to the right, a small porch<sup>5</sup>, with a back entrance. In the porch, a small window illuminates the kitchen. On the second floor, there are

<sup>1</sup> The bricks are oversized colonial, bought from the Excelsior Brick Co. in Halethorpe.

<sup>2</sup> The porch started its life as an open structure, but was enclosed circa 1948.

<sup>3</sup> This roof was originally covered in Chapman slate, as the house roof still is.

<sup>4</sup> These pillars supported the porch when it was unenclosed, and were built around to enclose the porch.

<sup>5</sup> This porch has been enclosed since 1992 and is now used as a breakfast room.

## Description Continuation (2)

windows centered above the windows of the first floor. Of note is the large Palladian window in the projecting portion, with its ten over eight panes. The third floor is represented by a large single paned dormer window. This dormer has a flat roof and four sidelights extending on the sides of the dormer. The basement has raised foundations, which make it possible for there to be two full sized windows on this level. An interior garage<sup>6</sup>, situated under the house was accessible from this facade.

On the South facade, the small porch continues, with five concrete steps leading up to it. There is a small extension of the retaining wall extending past the steps, with stone for the back facade and brick for the front. The fenestration on this facade mimics that of the North facade in placement around the centered chimney. To the left of the chimney, a small double casement window with three by three panes sits. To the right of the chimney, a full size six over six window can be found. The second floor and third floors are exactly like the South facade .

The front and back yards are separated by a retaining wall, which is stretcher course brick on the front facade, but an extension of the raised foundation stone<sup>7</sup> on the back facade. The driveway runs by the side of the house on the south side and becomes a parking apron in the back. Built up on the back side of the retaining wall is a rock garden with steps leading to the lower back yard. In this garden, a goldfish pond was built. Continuing down the yard, a large stand of tiger and day lilies grow, accented by boxwood at the far end. Directly behind the house, there is a lattice work garden shed<sup>8</sup>. The shed has a brick floor and one concrete brick wall. Next to the shed is a fine example of a Beauty Bush.

The yard to the side of the house, separated from the building by the driveway contains several holly trees and a large variety of black-eyed Susans. Lining the driveway are hollyhocks on the yard side and lilies of the valley on the house side.

The interior of the house is extremely balanced, echoing the outside elements. From the front entrance leads directly to the foyer, and a center hall which extends to the back of the house. The stair to the second floor is located in this room. From the foyer, the dining room is accessible to the left and the living room to the right. The door surrounds<sup>9</sup> of the foyer are elaborately decorated with garlands above the doorway and moldings made to look like engaged pillars extending down the sides.

Moving into the living room from the foyer, one's first impression is of balance. Two recessed bookcases with arched moldings above them flank a fireplace with a modest mantle, which in turn are flanked by two doors which lead into the sunroom porch. The windows in the front and back of the room are placed symmetrically. The ceiling molding is rather plain. There are curtain surrounds over the front and back windows. The living room gives access to a small hallway, once the breakfast room, and leads into the kitchen<sup>10</sup>. From the kitchen, one may go directly into the dining room. This room is decorated with

<sup>6</sup> This garage access was filled in in 1992 to utilize the space for a workroom.

<sup>7</sup> This granite stone was quarried at the Ivy Hill Quarry, which sat on the Morgan State College land. It has since been filled in.

<sup>8</sup> This shed houses the outdated and replaced coal furnace of the house.

<sup>9</sup> The stairway and door surrounds were salvaged from a house which was being demolished and stood on the grounds of Coppin State College on North Avenue, near Walbrook.

<sup>10</sup> The kitchen has its original cabinetry. The countertop started out as marble, but was replaced by stainless steel in 1954.

Description Continuation (3)

wainscoting with recessed paneling and a chair rail. There are two built in corner cabinets and projecting curtain surrounds, to hide the curtain rod. There are two windows in this room, one in the front and one corresponding to the side of the house. The ceiling molding is slightly more elaborate than in the other rooms.

The access of the dining room is back into the foyer. Going up the stairs, one notices that the Palladian window is at the top, giving the small foyer light. The upstairs has three rooms which were used as bedrooms and a telephone closet. There is one bathroom<sup>11</sup> on this floor. The third floor is divided into attic storage space and another bedroom<sup>12</sup>. The basement<sup>13</sup> is finished and sectioned off into three rooms.

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<sup>11</sup> This bathroom is original and decorated in black and pink tile.

<sup>12</sup> This room was created in 1954 and is entirely wood paneled. Most of its conveniences are built in, including desk space, benches with storage underneath and bookcases.

<sup>13</sup> The basement has been renovated to supply living space. The garage, now a workshop, was accessed through the basement.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. BA-2762

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Please see attached.

## Statement of Significance

Fischer House

Baltimore County, Maryland

Continuation (1)

The property is significant because it exemplifies the style and design of its builder and architect, Rudolph F. Fischer, Sr. Mr. Fischer is an architect of local significance, having designed many houses in the Baltimore area in the mid 20th century. Detailed records of the building's construction and design have been kept by Mr. Fischer, who still resides in the house, allowing the researcher to gain much more information than would be garnered by public record.

The house has been kept in its original condition, except for improvements to modern conveniences, like switching from coal to oil heat, etc. The last major remodeling occurred in 1954, when the attic was redone. Aside from that, the house is virtually as it was in the 1930s.

This house stands as a testament to the design principles and style of Mr. Fischer's architecture. Having been under his influence for 60 years, it typifies the elements found in many of his houses: balance, brick construction, and solid construction.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. BA-2762

News American, November 10, 1979. Parkville Folder, Vertical Files, Maryland Room,  
Enoch Pratt Library, Baltimore, Maryland.  
Interview. Rudolph F. Fischer, Sr. of 8805 Harford Road, Baltimore, Maryland, 21234

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3 Lots

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state Maryland code county Baltimore code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rebecca Snyderorganization Goucher Collegedate December 15, 1994street & number 6401 Brinton Lanetelephone 410/592-9028city or town Forkstate Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by  
an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated  
Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and  
record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of  
individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600



Chain of Title  
Fischer House  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
Continuation (1)

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The land that the Fischer house sits on can be traced all the way back to the Ridgely family, who acquired the land in a legal battle in 1832, referred to in Liber 115, folio 384)<sup>14</sup>. In its next transfer, the land passed from Charles Ridgely to John Ridgely in 1874 (8, 19). From there, John Ridgely deeded the tract to his wife in a will dated July 16, 1871(4, 130). This will specified that upon her death or her remarriage, the land would go directly to his four daughters. The land passed to the daughters in 1904.

During the period of ownership, the widow of John Ridgely, Margaret Sophia Ridgely, sold off portions of the land to Henry Miller (115, 384). Henry Miller seems to have been buying a lot of land in this area in the 1880's and beyond. He deeded these properties to George August Miller, his son, and Amelia Schneider, his daughter in 1905 (292, 169), the same year that the Ridgely daughters came into their inheritance. When Henry Miller willed the land to his children, it was 28 acres and 10 perches.

In 1907, Amelia and her husband, John A. Schneider sold her portion of the inheritance to her brother George (314, 142). In 1922, George and his wife Sarah sold the property to Joseph F. Moreland and his wife, Mamie (566, 307).

George Miller at this time stipulated that certain restrictions be followed in transferring the land. He wrote into the deed that no malt liquors or spirits be brewed, distilled or sold on the land. In addition, any structure built on the land could not be used as a "tavern, drinking saloon, bone-boiling establishment, tannery, slaughter house, or for glue, soap, candle, starch or gunpowder manufacture". He also stipulated that no pigs or "other animals of questionable character" be raised on the land. At this time, there is no record of any structure being on this property.

Joseph Moreland subdivided the land into lots, and recorded his actions on the Plat Maps of 1922. Moreland in turn sold a portion of the property (lots 154-156) to Gustav H. Thies and his wife in 1927 ((644, 223).

Mr. and Mrs. Thies sold the lots they acquired in 1927 to Rudolph F. Fischer and his wife Marie in 1932 (903, 129). From then, the land has been owned by the Fischer family.

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<sup>14</sup>John Ridgely, father of Charles Ridgely, won a legal settlement against George Howard and was allotted this land by the County Court. All Liber/Folio references are from the Baltimore County Courthouse in Towson, Maryland.

BA-2762



FISCITER HOUSE

8805 HARFORD ROAD

BALTO. CO. MARYLAND

UNKNOWN PHOTOGRAPHIC

UNKNOWN DATE

NORTHWEST FACADES

(1)

BA-2762



FISCHER HOUSE

8805 HAYFORD RD.

PORTO CO., MD

UNKNOWN PHOTOGRAPHED

UNKNOWN DATE

BA-2762



Fischer House

8805 Huxford Rd.

BALTO. CO., MD

UNKNOWN POSTER/PRE

UNKNOWN DATE





BA-2762

FISCHER HOUSE

8805 HARFORD RD.

BAYD. CO., MD

REBECCA SNYDER

DECEMBER 12, 1994

INTERIOR FRONT ROOM, FACING  
NORTH WEST

(3)



BA-2762

Fischer House

DETAIL OF STAIR

FACING NORTH

(4)



BA-2762

Fischer House

DETAIL OF NEWEL POST

FACING EAST

(5)



BA-2762

Fischer House  
DETAIL OF DOOR SURROUNDS IN FRONT HALL

(6)





BA-2762  
Dischen House  
DETAIL OF STAIR

FACING NORTHEAST

(7)



BA-2762

Fischer House  
DETAIL OF ROOM (MANTLEPIECE)

FACING NORTH IN FRONT ROOM

(B)



BA-2762 / Fischer House  
FACING  
NORTHEAST

(9)



BA-27621 *Rischer House*  
FACING Southeast

(10)





BA-2762/ Fischer House  
FACING SOUTHWEST

(11)



BA-2762/ Fischer House  
FRONT ENTRANCE WEST FACADE  
~~FACADE~~ (12)



BA-2762

Fischer House

DETAIL OF PORCH

NORTH FACADE

(13)



BA-2762

Fletcher House

DETAIL OF WINDOW

(14)





BA-2762/ Fisher House  
TRELLIS SHED (IN BACK OF HOUSE)

NORTHWEST

(15)



BA-2762

Fischer House



BA-2762

Fischer House



BA-2762

Fischer House





BA-2762

Fischer House



BA-2762

Fischer House



BA-2762

Fischer House



BH-2762

Fischer House





BA-2762

Fischer House



BA-2762

Fischer House



BA-2762

Fischer House



BA-2762

Fischer House